

At 2:15 p.m. today, a mother contacted 911 to report her 2 ½ year old son missing. Holly Irwin reported her son, Cooper, had wandered away from her during a visit to a ranch belonging to family members in the Athol area, near the Bunco Trailhead. Cooper had been playing with his twin brother, Payson, and some other children at the time he went missing. The ranch property is located at 16985 E. Bunco Road. Mrs. Irwin reported Cooper missing very soon after she could not locate him. Patrol deputies, Backcountry Unit deputies and detectives from the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department arrived at 2:30pm and began searching along with Timberlake Fire members and neighbors in the rural area. After a short time of searching, additional resources were contacted. The Kootenai County Search and Rescue Unit was contacted and the Spokane County Sheriff's Department provided a helicopter to assist in the search. As the search continued, searchers were concerned as Cooper was not dressed for the low temperatures expected tonight. At 5:40pm, the 911 Dispatch Center received a telephone call that a neighbor located Cooper at the intersection of Twete and Good Hope Roads, a location approximately 1 ½ miles north of the ranch property. Cooper was reunited with his family a short time later and was in good health/Lt. **Kim Edmondson**, KCSD spokeswoman.